

Dear Sir

Boston July. 28 1779

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A Copy of a Paper, which was laid before
the House in Congress on the 30th of April last, has
been handed about here of late to the no little
surprise of those who have seen it. It was signed
by Mr William Paca & Wm Henry Drayton, who
therein represented to Congress that in consequence of
an application they had made to the Minister Plen-
-ipotentiary of France, he produced to them an Original
Letter to him from the Count De Vergennes, Minister of
Foreign Affairs at the Court of Versailles, dated the
29 October 1778, in which he signified that he feared
Mr Arthur Lee and those about him; that the
Minister Plenipotentiary added that this Consideration
induced the Court of Versailles to keep secret from our
Commissioners the intended sailing of Count D'Estaing
for America untill his Fleet was ready to put to Sea;
That the said Lee by his Conduct on several Occasions
created the highest Disgust in the Court of Versailles against
him, that the Court of ~~Spain~~ Madrid entertained
the same Sentiments respecting the said Arthur Lee,
not only on account of his Conduct on those Occasions

but because of his imprudent Conduct in Spain and that the Minister Plenipotentiary declared expressly that he had every reason to think that neither of those Courts have that Confidence in the said Mr Lee, which is necessary to give success to the Negotiation of a Foreign Minister.

People here are very much astonished to find, that, after this Representation was made to Congress, when it was moved in Congress to Recall Arthur Lee Esq from France, that a Vote could not be obtained for his Recall & that all our Delegates present at Congress except one Voted Against it, they are entirely at a loss to account for this Conduct. for they observe, that let Mr Lee's Attachment to the United States be ever so strong & however much he has merited of them, yet if he was Disgraced to the Courts of Versailles & Madrid it is to the highest Degree absurd to continue him a Commissioner at either of those Courts as no possible advantage could be received from his Negotiations but great & public Detriment might be occasioned from his Continuance. I thought it was but friendly to Inform you of the Sentiments of the People here who have any Knowledge of this Matter: They fear the Disputes Congress has been engaged in respecting Mr Dean & Mr Lee has greatly retarded the public Business & has occasioned that ^{great} Delay which has happened, in not giving to the Minister Plenipotentiary any Answer with respect to the Propositions he has made respecting a general Pacification under the Mediation of the Court of Madrid, by such Conduct they fear we shall lose one Ally and Disgrace another & so be alone in the present Contest.

People are greatly alarmed & deeply affected upon this
Occasion & it is their sincere wish & Prayer that ^{no} Party on
sinister Views, no Personal attachments may have an
Influence in the Determination of Congress, but that
the Public Good may be their Object in all their
Resolutions. I remain with great respects

your most humble servant
Thomas Cushing

Jth ^{Wm} Samuel Holton Esq

B. H.
May 28. 1894
C.

C. 33.25

Answered by the Aug^{to}

To

The Hon^{ble} Samuel Holton Esq

At
Philadelphia

A letter from
the Hon. Secy. Warburg
July 28. 1879.

RW 68625